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World pledges $6 billion for Syria after chemical attack

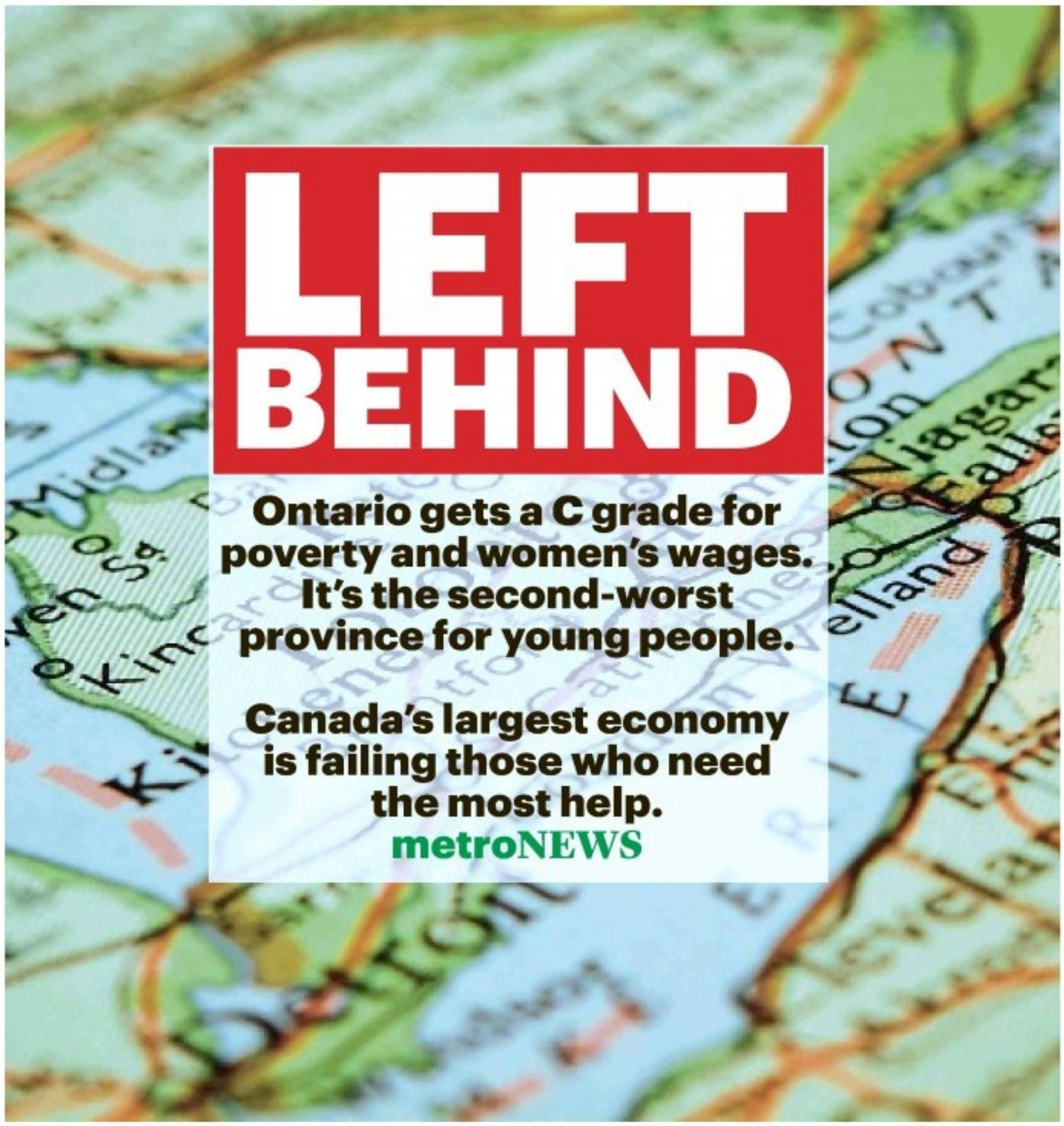
Survivors overcome by loss of 30 children metroNEWS

Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017 | High 6°C/Low 1°C Heavy rain

Student sleuths teach principal a costly lesson

metroNEWS


LEFT BEHIND
Ontario gets a C grade for poverty and women's wages. It's the second-worst province for young people.
Canada's largest economy is failing those who need the most help.
metroNEWS

Remedy sought for Toronto's housing crisis

COST OF LIVING

All three levels of government joining forces to suppress prices

Concerned about ballooning house prices in Toronto, federal finance minister Bill Morneau wants a high-level meeting with his provincial counterpart Charles Sousa and Mayor John Tory in the coming weeks to look at possible remedies.

Morneau wrote Sousa and Tory separately Wednesday asking to meet soon to "consider how we can collectively make progress to ensure that housing in the GTA is both affordable and accessible.

"I am concerned that dramatic house-price increases will have long-term implications for housing affordability and housing market stability," Morneau wrote.

"I believe we must take a closer look at these evolving market conditions and take stock of (the) implications for our largest urban area," the finance minister said.

Morneau is also worried that families, encouraged by low interest rates, have taken on high debt to get into the housing market, "making them susceptible to changing economic conditions."

Over a 12-month period, house prices across the GTA have seen double-digit percentage increases, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation said.

Political leaders have been casting around for remedies.

Tory recently held a roundtable with housing and real-estate experts. He said the province and city are considering a tax on vacant houses and condos to curb speculation.

Sousa wrote Morneau in March asking Ottawa to "consider options" such as raising the capital gains tax on residential home sales that don't qualify for the principal residence exemption. That would help cool speculative purchases, Sousa said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BY THE NUMBERS

33%

Year-over-year increase in prices of resale homes across the region

$916K

Average home price for the GTA across all housing types last month

$1.6M

Average price of a detached home in Toronto

SOURCE: TORONTO REAL ESTATE BOARD

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Alleged hacker's dad vows electronics ban for son if granted bail. **Canada**

Future out of reach for young

LEFT BEHIND
A METRO SPECIAL FOCUS

Working hard is not enough to get by in GTA

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Hard work doesn't pay off the way it used to.

That's the message behind a new report from Generation Squeeze, a group lobbying for young people, that finds millennials are being left behind in Ontario's growing economy.

As real-estate prices soar in the GTA, young people are making less than in 2003, the report finds, leaving them unable to save for down payments while pinched to pay rising rents.

Millennials are also strained by rising debt loads from post-secondary education and higher costs for child care.

Overall, Ontario has the second worst economy in Canada after B.C. for their generation, the report finds.

"What's fabulous for some is hurting others," said Paul Kershaw, a University of British Columbia professor who leads Generation Squeeze, of high home prices.

"The GTA has become the epicentre for where hard work doesn't pay off."

It's a situation Amara Possian, a local Generation Squeeze representative, knows well.

The 28-year-old "can't even imagine" saving for a down payment for a house in the region.

"I think of Toronto as home and I'd like to stay but I'm not quite sure how that's going to be possible," she said.

Kershaw and Generation Squeeze have a range of suggested solutions for this intergenerational crisis, including measures to ease the housing burden such as closing the exemption that makes it possible for landlords to raise rents without limits on buildings built after 1991.

They also want the province to lower other costs, such as child care, and transit, to offset high housing prices.

By the numbers

Wages: Ontario is the only province with a decline in full-time earnings for the typical 23-34-year-old since 2003, adjusting for inflation.

Home ownership: It took five years of full-time work to save a 20 per cent down payment on an average home in Ontario in 1976-1980. It now takes about 15 years, adjusting for inflation, and nearly 20 in the GTA.

Debt: Since 1999, personal debt has risen by at least $19,000 for the typical person under aged 35 in Ontario.

Rising housing costs and low wages have left young people like Amara Possian and Fatin Chowdhury wondering if there's a future for them in the GTA. They're local leads for the Generation Squeeze campaign. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

TECHNOLOGY

Wanted: Developers to help governments think creatively

David Hains
Metro | Toronto

A new non-profit will recruit private-sector technology leaders for "tours of duty" to solve government problems.

Code for Canada launched Wednesday morning in Toronto and will aim to replicate successful programs in the U.S., Australia and Mexico.

With $700,000 in provincial funding, Code for Canada will create $75,000 fellowships that will start in October. Teams of three developers will spend nine months embedded in government.

Code for Canada spokesman and Metro contributor Luke Simcoe say it will change how government thinks about problem solving.

"We want to show what's possible," he said, adding that citizens expect government services to be online.

Solutions in other countries included a California food stamp website that reduced application times to 10 minutes from one hour, and an Australian service that sends text-message reminders so people go to their legal aid appointments.

Code for Canada is small compared to its international counterparts.

But the group hopes to find private and governmental partners across the country to extend its reach.

"There's a whole lot of people who have a whole lot to offer," said Simcoe.

CODE FOR AMERICA HIGHLIGHTS

The Code for America model has helped provide solutions to government problems around the world.

- In New Orleans, a team built the app Posting Pro, which reduces biases in job listings.
- Vocatus makes it easy for patients to request and gather all their health-care information.
- OpenCounter simplifies the permit process in 37 U.S. cities, so it's easier to do home renovations.

Advocate 'dismayed' by report

LEFT BEHIND
A METRO SPECIAL FOCUS

Province found lacking on gender wage gap, poverty

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Ontario needs to do better on poverty and its gender wage gap, according to a new report from the Conference Board of Canada.

The report card grades Ontario in relation to Canada, other provinces, and even a few other countries on measures of social performance.

While Ontario received a "B" grade overall, it only earned a "C" on the gender wage gap and poverty from the non-profit think-tank.

Craig Alexander, chief economist for the Conference Board of Canada, said while the province is "middle of the pack" compared to other large economies, it's falling behind on rising income inequality.

"Poverty in Ontario has been edging higher over time," he said.

"We need to change that tide."

The U.S. sits at the back of the class with an overall "D" grade in large part due to unchecked income inequality.

While Ontario is doing "OK" economically, the province needs to do a better job making sure the standard of living rises for everyone, he said.

In addition to the gender gap, there's also a wage gap for people with disabilities, immigrants and racialized groups, Alexander added.

Tanya van Biesan, executive director, Canada for Catalyst Inc., which works to expand opportunities for women in the workplace, said she was "surprised and dismayed" to see how poorly Ontario fared when it came to the gender wage gap.

But she offered several possible solutions to help close it.

Organizations should start with a "pay equity audit" to see how much women are making in relation to men before "digging down" into internal processes to see where roadblocks are happening.

Some organizations, she said, have even started a "no negotiations" policy in an effort to close the gap.

As men frequently make more money, negotiating salary based on what a person made in their last position often just ends up perpetuating the gap, she said.

OTHER GRADES

- Norway, Sweden and Denmark all got "As" on social performance while Japan and the U.S. got "Ds."
- Canada got a "B" overall, along with Manitoba, Ontario, B.C., Quebec, and New Brunswick.

POVERTY COMPASSION AND JUSTICE Leaders Ontario's faith-based communities prayed for divine intervention in a Noon vigil Wednesday at Queen's Park as they called on the government to pay attention to poverty needs. Grouped in what's known as the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition, the leaders named each and every MPP and prayed for them to be guided by "a spirit of compassion and justice" in their budget debates. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

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POLITICS

DiNovo calls for budget gender lens

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Ontario's next budget could be designed through a gender-based framework.

Parkdale-High Park NDP MPP Cheri DiNovo presented a motion at Queen's Park Wednesday that asks the provincial government to consider gender equity perspectives in next year's budget – which is rumoured to be tabled later this month.

The proposal echoes last month's federal budget announcement in which, according to Finance Minister Bill Morneau, all decisions were based in part on the impact they'll have on women. Toronto city council passed a similar motion by Kristyn Wong-Tam during last month's budget debate.

"We're really behind the pack in Ontario for doing this," said DiNovo, noting many countries around the world are heeding the United Nations' call to bridge the gender gap by how they put their budgets together.

Putting a gender lens on the budgeting process is the most responsible thing to do for a province in which women make up more than half the population, she said. The move would help better address issues such as the high cost of childcare services, as well as help improve child benefit programs across the province.

DiNovo also believes a gender equity approach to provincial budgeting would improve conditions for those living in poverty. Shelters, for example, are full and turning people away – many of whom are women and members of marginalized groups, she said.

Even with transit investments, women take public transportation more often than men, she noted.

"The time is always now to catch up," she said, adding she expects enough support when her motion gets debated next week.

"It's not just about passing the motion but acting on it. So we'll see if they're really serious about it when the budget comes out."

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University did the 'minimum': student

HUMAN RIGHTS

Woman says sexual assault complaint was mishandled

Tamsyn Riddle at Trinity College. RENE JOHNSTON/TORONTO STAR

A University of Toronto student has filed a human rights application against the institution, alleging the school failed to adequately investigate and handle her sexual assault complaint.

Tamsyn Riddle, a 20-year-old Trinity College student, alleges she was sexually assaulted by another student in the spring of 2015.

According to the human rights application filed Tuesday, the University of Toronto and Trinity College "discriminated against Ms. Riddle based on sex by failing to properly investigate and remedy the assault that she experienced and by failing to provide Ms. Riddle with a safe, discrimination-free learning environment."

The application alleges, among other things, that the investigation was disorganized and delayed and that staff were dismissive of Riddle's concerns.

The school placed restrictions on the alleged perpetrator's movements around campus. Riddle's application, however, claims the restrictions were "haphazard and insufficient."

"I was made to feel that this wasn't a really serious issue," Riddle said. "To me it feels like (the process with the school) was intended just to do the bare minimum to make sure I wouldn't speak up or I wouldn't take action against the university."

None of the allegations in the human rights application have been proven in the tribunal. Riddle did not report the alleged assault to the police.

According to the application, in April, 2015, Riddle was "sexually assaulted by another student while attending a party hosted at Trinity College."

Following the assault, the application claims that Riddle "became aware" the alleged perpetrator had also assaulted her friend.

Riddle and her friend reported the incidents to the school, according to the application.

The application states Riddle was initially dissuaded from contacting police by Trinity College's assistant dean of students, Adam Hogan, who told her that route might leave her "disappointed," the application says. Hogan also offered to discuss the concept of consent with the alleged perpetrator, but Riddle chose to make a formal complaint instead.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES

Private member's bills call for judicial training

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Queen's Park is set to have two separate private member's bills requiring prospective judges take sexual assault training.

Liberal MPP Cristina Martins plans to introduce a bill Thursday morning and Conservative MPP Laurie Scott tabled a bill on Wednesday.

Both bills seek to mandate training for judges.

"It's been something that I am concerned with as a woman, wanting to make sure there is appropriate justice for victims," said Martins about her bill.

> **"It's been something that I am concerned with as a woman."**
> MPP Cristina Martins

Interim federal Conservative leader Rona Ambrose introduced a bill in the House of Commons earlier this year and is receiving all-party support for her proposal.

Ontario Attorney General Yasir Naqvi has said previously that he could not support a similar bill, because it would be an infringement on judicial independence. Premier Kathleen Wynne has also echoed those comments.

Martins said she spoke with Naqvi about her bill and plans to introduce it even though it would appear not to have her own government's support.

"I put this bill forward for my constituents. I am doing my job as the MPP for Davenport."

Naqvi's office issued a noncommittal statement about the bill.

"I want to thank MPP Martins for her interest in education and training that judges receive, particularly in the area of sexual assault. This is a very important issue and I look forward to reviewing the bill once it is tabled in the legislature."

A followup question to his office about whether his opinion had changed received no reply.

Scott said the issue is important and she's concerned it's becoming swallowed by politics.

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RECREATION

Four-seater bikes for sale as islands contract ends

Sarah-Joyce Battersby
Metro | Toronto

Toronto Island's quadricycles are up for sale. Four-seaters start at $800 while two-seaters cost $500. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

After 32 years, the family that has run Toronto Islands' bike rental business is closing up shop and passing the reins to a new operator.

But Torontonians can hold on to piece of their childhood, as the Rao family sells off its stock, including the iconic four-seater quadricycles they brought to the island decades ago.

The sale comes after the city recently made the decision to end its contract with the Raos — a decision Priya Rao, the daughter of operators Hari and Vimla Rao, says came as a surprise.

"It was completely stunning to us," she told Metro.

For her parents, now in their seventies, it means a loss of livelihood, she said. "For myself, it's the end of an era."

The city put out a request for proposals in February for a five-year contract to run the island bike rentals. The new operator, confidential until the terms are settled, can start as soon as May 1.

The fleet will include new quadricycles and tandem bikes, a parks department spokesperson confirmed.

The Raos are hoping to appeal the decision, but with a looming deadline to clear out, the family and their business partner will sell off a dozen tandem bikes, 100 standard bikes, and over 40 of the quadricycle four- and two-seater bikes with the striped canvas canopies. The sale runs April 14 to 16 on the island.

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Police turn to spy tech

PRIVACY

Mounties admit they use devices to collect cellular details

The RCMP used controversial spy technology to track cell phone data in 19 criminal investigations last year — the first official public acknowledgement that the force uses surreptitious devices to collect Canadians' cellular details.

In a rare briefing with reporters from the Toronto Star, CBC and the Globe and Mail Wednesday morning, RCMP Chief Superintendent Jeff Adam said his force owns 10 so-called "mobile device identifier" (MDI) devices with the ability to gather high-level data about the phone's location — but not private communications.

"We will confirm officially that the RCMP possesses and uses mobile identifier technology in order to identify and locate a suspect in a criminal investigation," he said.

Adam said the devices identify a suspect's cellphone by gathering "very limited" signalling information in a given vicinity and collecting unique identification information from the phone — called International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) and International Mobile Equipment Identity numbers (IMEI).

While MDI technology does allow for the collection of personal communications, the RCMP uses equipment that — by policy — does not capture private communications, said Adam.

But Brenda McPhail, director of privacy, technology and surveillance at the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, said even metadata collection is an invasion of privacy. "Metadata includes location information. That is intimately personal. The fact that they only collect metadata doesn't let them off the hook."

The same MDI technology used to target a suspect will also gather up the cellular data of many other Canadians, Adam confirmed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In this courtroom sketch, Karim Baratov (right) addresses the court as his lawyer Amedeo Dicarlo (bottom left), Crown Heather Graham (second from left), lawyer Deepak Paradkar (top left) and Justice Alan Whitten look on. THE CANADIAN PRESS

COURT

Accused Yahoo hacker makes appearance in bail hearing

The father of a Canadian man accused in a massive hack of Yahoo emails told an Ontario court Wednesday that he'd keep all electronic devices locked away and out of his son's reach if his child is released on bail.

Akhmet Tokbergenov was testifying in a Hamilton courtroom at his son's bail hearing, saying he and his wife are prepared to do whatever the court orders if the 22-year-old is released from custody.

Karim Baratov was arrested under the Extradition Act last month after U.S. authorities indicted him and three others — two of them allegedly officers of Russia's Federal Security Service — for computer hacking, economic espionage and other crimes.

American authorities have alleged in court documents that Baratov poses an "extremely high flight risk" in part due to his alleged ties to Russian intelligence agents and his financial resources. They've noted that Baratov did not appear to have any "legitimate employment." THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATIONAL DIGEST

Beyak removed from Indigenous committee

Conservative Sen. Lynn Beyak, who famously declared "some good" came out of Canada's residential schools, has been removed from the Senate's committee on Indigenous peoples.

A spokesperson for interim Conservative leader Rona Ambrose says the senator's controversial comments do not reflect the party's position on residential schools. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM showcases idea for procedural reform

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau responded personally to all questions asked by fellow MPs in the House of Commons Wednesday.

The move came as the Liberal government tries to convince the opposition of the merits of its proposed changes to the ins and outs of parliamentary procedure.

One suggestion is to set aside one day of the week for MPs to direct questions to the prime minister, such as is done in Britain — one of the Liberals' campaign promises. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TTC Wheel-Trans Public Consultation

TTC Staff will provide an update on the recently implemented Wheel-Trans eligibility and policy changes. Details will also be available on the Family of Services Pilot Program, Mobility Transfer Hubs and the proposed Community Bus Routes. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide input on each of these initiatives.

Schedule of events:

	Community Bus Routes	Presentation: Update 10-Year Strategy	Q and A Period/ Discussion
Afternoon session (April 13 only)	2 to 2:30 p.m.	2:30 to 3 p.m.	3 to 4 p.m.
Evening sessions	6:30 to 7 p.m.	7 to 7:30 p.m.	7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The following support services will be available at each location:

• Captioning • Attendant • Interpreter (incl. ASL)

Etobicoke: April 12, 2017 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School, 28 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive – Atrium

North York: April 13, 2017 – 2 to 4 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (two sessions)

North York Civic Centre, Memorial Hall, Burgundy Room – enter via 5 Park Home Avenue

Toronto: April 20, 2017 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Metro Hall 55 John Street, Room 308/309

Scarborough: April 24, 2017 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School, 959 Midland Avenue – Cafeteria

Contact Information:
Lito Romano, Community Liaison, TTC
416-397-8699, TTY 416-393-4555, wtconsult@ttc.ca

Abdul-Hamid Alyousef cries as he holds his twin babies who were killed during a suspected chemical attack in Idlib, Syria. Alaa Alyousef via the associated press

Death toll rises in chemical attack

MIDDLE EAST

Global leaders seek answers about shocking events in Syria

Abdel Hameed Alyousef lost his two children, his wife and other relatives in the suspected chemical attack Tuesday in the northern Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun that killed over 80 people, including at least 30 children and 20 women.

The 29-year-old father held his nine-month-old twins, Aya and Ahmed, each in an arm. He choked back tears, mumbling, "Say goodbye, baby, say goodbye" to their lifeless bodies.

When the airstrike took place, "I was right beside them and I carried them outside the house with their mother," Alyousef said.

He brought them to paramedics and, thinking they would be OK, went to look for the rest of his family. He found the bodies of two of his brothers, two nephews and a niece, as well as neighbours and friends. Only later was he told his children and wife had died.

The death toll from the suspected chemical attack rose to 86 on Wednesday as activists and rescue workers found more survivors hiding in shelters near the site of the assault, one of the deadliest in Syria's civil war.

The attack on Khan Sheikhoun killed dozens of people on Tuesday, leaving residents gasping for breath and convulsing in the streets. Haunting images of lifeless children piled in heaps reflected the magnitude of the attack.

A resolution drafted by Britain, France and the U.S. stresses the Syrian government's obligation to provide information about its air operations, including the names of those in command of helicopter squadrons on the day of the attack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. REACTION

President Donald Trump declared on Wednesday the deadly chemical attack in Syria had crossed "many, many lines" and abruptly changed his views of Syrian President Bashar Assad. But he refused to say what the U.S. might do in response.

BRUSSELS

'Everybody is losing': $6B aid pledged by over 70 countries

International donors pledged $6 billion in aid for war-ravaged Syria on Wednesday as the UN Security Council held emergency talks over a suspected chemical attack that killed dozens in a rebel-held province.

Donors from more than 70 countries meeting at a conference on Syria in Brussels made a "collective pledge of $6 billion for this year alone," EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Christos Stylianides said.

Stylianides described the pledge — which appeared to approach the conference hosts' target — as "an impressive figure."

Syria's "needs are massive. Our conference is sending a powerful message," he said. We are not letting down the people of Syria."

However, the goodwill at the meeting was shadowed by the chemical attack Tuesday in Idlib that killed 75 people.

Responding to the grim news, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed for Syria's warring factions and government backers such as Russia and Iran to bring an end to a six-year conflict that has taken the lives of almost 400,000 people.

"Nobody is winning this war, everybody is losing," Guterres said. "It is having a detrimental and destabilizing effect on the entire region and it is providing a focus that is feeding the new threat of global terrorism."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sleuths oust principal

KANSAS

New hire resigns after school newspaper investigation

An incoming high school principal has resigned in Kansas after student reporters investigated and raised questions about her credentials.

The Pittsburg School Board accepted Amy Robertson's resignation on Tuesday, saying she felt the decision was "in the best interest of the district ... in light of the issues that arose."

The main concern stemmed from her receiving her master's and doctoral degrees from Corllins University, an unaccredited, online school. Robertson said she received her degrees before the university lost accreditation.

"She was going to be the head of our school, and we wanted (to) be assured that she was qualified and had the proper credentials," Trina Paul, a student editor at Pittsburg High School's newspaper, The Booster Redux.

Superintendent Destry Brown praised the student reporters, saying: "I appreciate that our kids ask questions and don't just accept something because somebody told them." He told the Pittsburg Morning Sun they "did a great job with the research they did."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

POSTCARD NO. 65

RIDEAU RIVER, OTTAWA, ONT.

THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN LAST FALL AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY, OTTAWA, ONT., AND PROVIDES ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VIEWS OF THE RIDEAU RIVER. THIS PICTURE IS SIGNIFICANT AS IT IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITE MEMORIES OF UNIVERSITY LIFE. WITH THE NATURAL BEAUTY, CRYSTAL CLEAR WATERS AND SPECTACULAR FALL COLOURS, THIS IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITE PLACES TO BE DURING THE FALL SEASON. **HASSAN KHAN**

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Other lease options are available. Dealers are free to set individual prices. See your dealer for conditions and details. As part of the transaction, dealer may request documentation and contact General Motors of Canada Company to verify eligibility. Annual kilometre limit of 20,000 km, $0.16 per excess kilometre. Security deposit may be required. Payment may vary depending on down payment/trade. ^Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia. 0% purchase financing offered on approved credit by TD Auto Finance Services, Scotiabank® or RBC Royal Bank for 84 months on a new or demonstrator **2017 GMC Terrain**. Model shown may include optional equipment available at extra cost. Participating lenders are subject to change. Rates from other lenders will vary. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Monthly/Bi-weekly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. 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New episode April 7 featuring Lauren Mitchell and Rick Harp

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON LOSING PATIENCE WITH BOMBARDIER

After taking tax-payer money, laying off hundreds and rewarding top execs with pay hikes, Bombardier leaves cover-seeking political allies with little more than a fig leaf

It has long been taken for granted that no prime minister, no Quebec premier would ever let Bombardier go under on his or her watch. The aerospace giant's leading contribution to Canada's R&D sector, the thousands of jobs it provides kept it on the short list of Canadian corporations that no government would allow to fail.

Over and above any economic consideration, the fact that Bombardier was the corporate apple in the eye of most Quebecers guaranteed it was treated as a political sacred cow in both capitals.

In the wake of the uproar over its executives' compensation that is a status Bombardier may want to avoid putting to the test. It has become untouchable in the wrong sense of the word.

It is hard to overstate the magnitude of the popular backlash the company's management has unleashed by handing itself pay hikes and bonuses of a magnitude normally consistent with a corporate success story.

At this juncture, Bombardier would qualify for that title only if it were considered a feat to wrestle a multi-billion-dollar bailout from two orders of governments while eliminating thousands of jobs at home and abroad.

A poll published this weekend reported that 93 per cent of Quebecers were angry over the compensation news. That is as close to unanimity as one can get. It is also the kind of number that no politician can take lightly.

93% of Quebecers are angry with the company's compensation plans.

At this point, Bombardier has no friends in the provincial and federal capitals or at least none who is not embarrassed to be associated with the company. In response to public pressure, it has announced that it was postponing part of the pay hikes for a year. That has provided its cover-seeking political allies with little more than a fig leaf.

TOO BIG TO FAIL Bombardier, and its CEO Alain Bellemare (pictured), has become untouchable in the wrong sense of the word, writes Chantal Hébert. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In Quebec the compensation story cut the legs from under Philippe Couillard's Liberal government just as it was getting a rare post-budget boost. The premier has spent the past week fending off opposition charges that his government bailed out the company with little or no regard for safeguarding taxpayers' money from abuse.

Couillard has chosen to make fiscal rigour the mantra of his government. The opposition is having a field day arguing that it walks that talk when it is cutting social programs but not when it is issuing corporate welfare cheques.

On Parliament Hill, the controversy has given new life to the debate over whether Justin Trudeau was right to pledge $372.5 million in loans to Bombardier earlier this year.

There were plenty of signs in the months leading to the self-serving Bombardier compensation move that Quebecers were running out of patience with its financial demands. Only a company disconnected from reality or too arrogant to think it should be accountable to the taxpayers who bailed it out would have failed to take note of those signs.

Last fall Couillard's decision to sign off on a $1.3 billion bailout raised more opposition questions in the National Assembly than it elicited applause among the public.

From day one, the Coalition Avenir Québec had been arguing that the premier had failed to attach even minimal strings to the public money it handed Bombardier.

Even as the premier tried to turn the heat of public opinion on Trudeau for taking his time to match his government's contribution, the federal Liberals' standing in voting intentions in Quebec continued to climb while that of his own party declined.

When a federal package that fell significantly short of matching Quebec's commitment was belatedly delivered in early February, it was Couillard, and not Trudeau, who took the most flak – for having failed to exact guarantees from the company that Ottawa had secured.

As of now, both governments can only hope that Bombardier will make good on its promise to turn the corner on its financial difficulties – and that it will not ask for more money.

The company may have managed to make corporate bailouts of any kind a lose-lose proposition for politicians.

Bombardier executives believe Quebecers will get over their anger and let bygones be bygones sooner rather than later. But then, they also believed they deserved big bonuses for milking billions of public dollars out of two governments.

They might keep in mind that Quebec's licence plates read: Je me souviens.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

Brands you can trust when the world starts to burn

Vicky Mochama
Metro

When the revolution starts, which brand will be there for me?

I wondered this as I watched the caffeinated cola ad starring Kendall Jenner as a model-turned-protest leader. In it, she solves police brutality by handing a police officer a non-Coke soda. When she does it, a cheer goes up in the crowd as if to say, "We realize the police were hypoglycemic. Thanks, Kendall!"

After much backlash, the company has pulled the ad. They're not the only ones to pull ads this week.

The New York Times reported that Fox News blowhard Bill O'Reilly has had to pay out $13 million in sexual harassment lawsuits over the last few years. Forty advertisers (and counting) have responded by pulling their ads from O'Reilly's show, including major ones like Mercedes Benz, BMW, AllState Insurance and GlaxoSmithKline.

None of these companies pulled their ads from the network last July when allegations surfaced about Fox News CEO Roger Ailes sexually harassing employees. (He left the company soon after.) Maybe all those brands were just monitoring the situation.

Nine months after Ailes' departure, women must be overjoyed that dental company Invisalign is standing up for women.

There's really no reason for brands to be left out of dismantling capitalism.

In fact, between caffeinated beverages and luxury cars, it is invigorating to find brands that will be there to support the dismantling of systems of oppression.

For example, right-wing media has been assuring us that a race war is forthcoming. Done properly, it's a marketer's dream.

With their long-standing work on buying cool via basketball stars and rap music, Sprite will surely offer to be the drink of black people. Nothing says cool and refreshing like a battle for racial superiority.

I have been planning my outfit for the race war for some time, but what I am really hoping is that Beyoncé's athleisure line, Ivy Park, will supply our uniforms. Canadians who decline to take part can pick up their non-combatant grey sweats from Race War Amnesty title sponsor Roots.

But it's not just during the upcoming race war (sponsored by Halliburton?) when brands can find a lucrative market.

There are unique opportunities right now. As the resistance to Donald Trump coalesces in the United States, there is a profitable opportunity for Staples to provide branded poster board to marchers. In addition to their Easy button, they could issue a "RESIST" button.

There is a product for every consumer. It's just a matter of finding the company that fulfills your desire for de-funding private prisons but also serves the best latte.

Gil Scott Heron was right. The revolution will not be televised.

It will be streamed live on YouTube and hosted by BuzzFeed.

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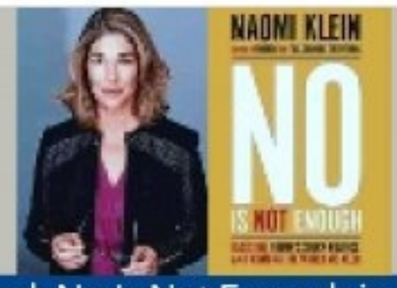


Naomi Klein to publish Trump book No Is Not Enough in June

Remembering Mom through her pearls

MEMOIR

Local style guru switches gears in emotional new book

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

During her last days in the hospital intensive-care unit, Karen von Hahn's mother Susan could no longer speak, but she could communicate by spelling out letters on a white card.

Susan's last word tapped out to her daughter was "pearls," which von Hahn instinctively knew meant that she was to inherit her mother's prized jewellery.

Von Hahn describes the art deco–fashioned strand of precious jewels as "fat and creamy, but elegantly flapper," in the opening of her new book, What Remains: Object Lessons in Love and Loss, a tribute to her mother, who died in 2012, and their complicated relationship.

Von Hahn, one of Toronto's most well-known and enduring style journalists, has spent most of the last three decades talking about the meaning of objects we surround ourselves with. It's a subject she knows intimately from birth.

Her mother Susan was a glamorous, witty, fun-loving, and perfectly tanned woman with a penchant for designer clothes and a driving need to be immersed in beauty, whether it be a Yves Saint Laurent peasant blouse or the satin silver couches where she would entertain over many vodka cocktails.

Von Hahn catalogues these items with sharp detail, in part to better understand her mother's life and, at times, the pain Susan's seeming narcissism would cause those around her.

"In the end we're left with nothing but a person's things. The reminders and the touchstones and the artefacts of a person's life," observes von Hahn, who started writing What Remains a year after her mother's death.

"What did they collect? What did they aspire to? What did they hope for or want to be? All these things are really expressed in the things that surround a person's life. It's like every person is curating their own museum. I thought that was a way in — to circle around the idea of my mother and my memories of her through the lens of objects and what they mean."

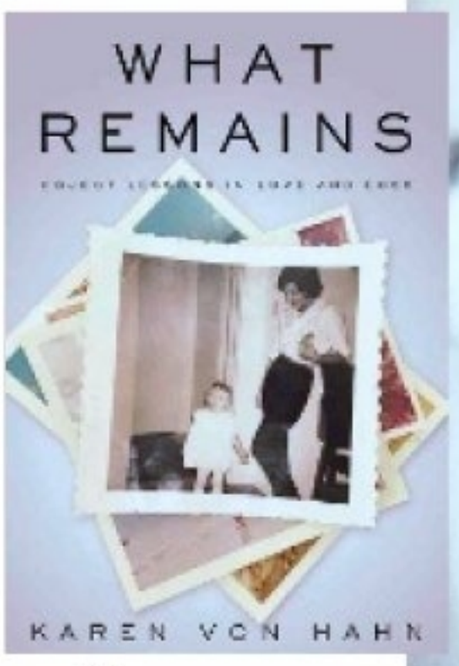
Growing up with a fabulously turned-out mom — and one who demands constant attention, often at the expense of others — can be tough on kids, especially as they test out their own emerging identities, only to discover there's little room left to share in the spotlight.

Von Hahn and her siblings were often left to their own devices, even when a little parental nurturing was called for. "In our house it was clear that the story was about my parents," says von Hahn. "It was their love affair and we children were just ancillary to that."

In the book, she recalls her mother's obsession with glamour as both a point of pride and embarrassment.

"She would appear at school and wouldn't look like any of the other mothers at all. She didn't care about the rules or whether other people thought she was appropriate. She was a bohemian at heart," says von Hahn. "But sometimes as a kid you think, 'Oh my God, can't they just be normal, like everyone else's parents for just one second?'"

> **In our house it was clear that the story was about my parents. It was their love affair and we children were just ancillary to that.**
> Karen von Hahn



It's been roughly four years since von Hahn starting writing What Remains, still in the thick emotional pool of both sorrow and relief.

And while the memoir may have been therapeutic in some ways, she continues to deeply miss her mother's physical presence and sharp insight.

"She refused to be forgotten. She was one of a kind. I felt she deserved the effort to be remembered because she was just amazing," says von Hahn. "I hope that the portrait of her I paint, which is warts and all, is true. I was mad for her."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

In her memoir, journalist Karen von Hahn pays homage to her glamorous late mother, who she says was a bohemian at heart — something she didn't always appreciate as a kid. CONTRIBUTED

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Sunnybrook

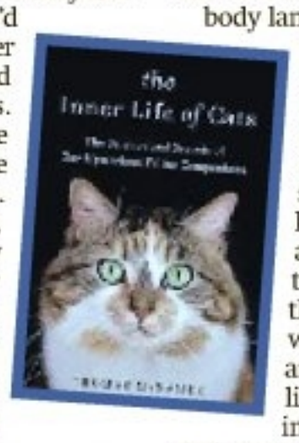
More than a feline: why cats are so *weird*

INTERVIEW

The whiskers and all story of what kitty is really thinking

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

Cats are weird. They growl when they're happy, hiss when they're mad, and do that weird kneading thing on the couch for no apparent reason. There's some debate about whether they love us back, or if they'd be plotting to murder us if they only had opposable thumbs. They are some of the wildest animals we let into our homes. Thomas McNamee, author of the new book The Inner Life of Cats, says our cats love us, and they can communicate with us — we just have to learn how to listen.



What made you decide to write a book about cats' minds?
I guess it came down to guilt. A little black cat walked into our lives when we lived in a ranch in Montana. We found her in the barn, and she proceeded to live with us for the next 15 years. We didn't know much about how to bring up and treat a cat, and she turned out to be sort of a fraidy cat. I later learned a lot more about cats. We made so many mistakes. And I realized people everywhere were likely making some of the same mistakes that we made.

There's ongoing debate over whether cats are really domesticated — whether feral cats and house pets behave all that differently. Do you come down on a side?
I come down on both sides of it. Our cats are directly descended from the North African wildcat, and they're not very far from them. A lot of their habits and their psychology are directly related to that wildcat. On the other hand, there are aspects of their being that have evolved to be extremely domestic. You have to pay attention to how cats relate to humans. Dogs are easy to read. Cats are not so easy. But a cat really will love you.

So how do I know if my cat loves me?
The first step is to learn their body language. The most important expression of affection is the long, slow blink, looking right at you. And the straight tail with a little hook on top is a very friendly gesture. They will do things to you that wildcats do to one another to say, "I like you": bumping into your leg with their head, or rubbing their face against you.

What surprised you the most, out of all you learned?
The thing that struck me most is the depth and complexity of their emotions. I really had no idea how much was going on. There's been a tremendous amount of scientific research done in the last 20 years, and the results have not made it into the cat books that you can buy by the dozens.

What should be in those books?
People need to know that cats have deep emotional needs. Some people feed them, let them out, that's it. And the cat becomes a living, breathing sofa cushion. And here's another thing: The most important thing in most cat's lives is their litter box. It's true. It's like "This is where I leave the most olfactory information, these is my territory, my headquarters." And if your litter box situation is not right, your cat is going to be out of sorts all the time.

How do you know if you're doing the litter box right?
Well, the cat will eventually tell you. It needs to be sheltered, out of traffic, but it's got to have an escape route. Other cats need to respect it. It needs to be clean, but not too clean. Bleach is no good either. Respect is very much tied to it. It sounds silly, but if you look at the cat when it's doing its business in the box, they have this kind of sort of dreamy look on their face. They're in this kind of trance. They're completely absorbed in the experience.

Cats are so weird...
Yes they are!

Learning cats' body language is key to bonding. ISTOCK

MUSIC BRIEFS

Junos sales boost for stars
Call it the Juno effect. Data released by Nielsen Wednesday showed how featuring on Canadian music's biggest night paid off for some of the country' biggest artists.

Performers and winners saw huge spikes in fans streaming and buying their music after Sunday's ceremony. The Strumbellas, who won single of the year for Spirits, saw sales of that song increase nearly 200% while Alessia Cara, winner of pop album of the year for Know It All saw her album increase 140% overnight. METRO

Manilow comes out at 73
Barry Manilow has come out as gay, telling People magazine that he hid his sexuality for decades because he thought he would be "disappointing fans if they knew." The 73-year-old music legend married his longtime manager, Gary Kief, in a 2014 ceremony in California.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro HOME

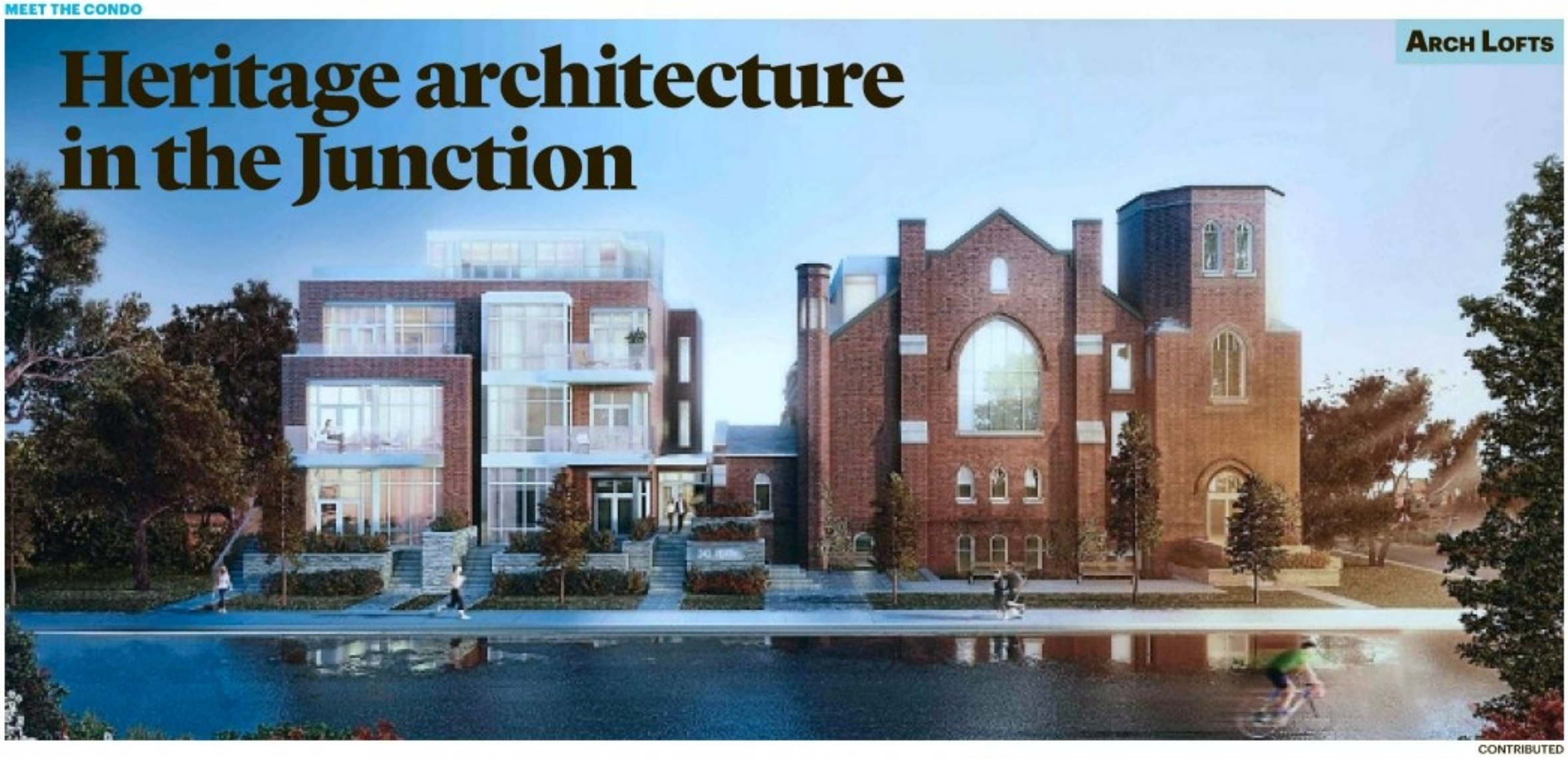
Your essential daily news

Molly Lodge, the smallest castle in the U.K., is on the market for £550,000

MEET THE CONDO

Heritage architecture in the Junction

ARCH LOFTS



CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

An elegant combination of heritage architecture and contemporary suites in the heart of the Junction Triangle. A church conversion and newly-constructed vestry, the 39 distinct lofts feature premium finishes throughout.

Housing amenities

Most of the suites are designed to include their own balcony or terrace. A fitness centre, underground parking, locker storage and bicycle spaces round out the project's amenities.

Location and transit

Located in the vibrant Junction Triangle neighbourhood, Arch Lofts is a quick walk to Dundas West subway station, the Bloor GO and the new UPX Station, whether commuting to work downtown or catching a flight at Pearson Airport.

In the neighbourhood

This animated, residential neighbourhood has a great artisan character, its streets lined with independent markets, bakeries, cafés and galleries. The area is surrounded by Bloordale Village, the Junction and Roncesvalles.

NEED TO KNOW

What: Arch Lofts
Builder: Windmill Development Group Ltd.
Architect: Caricari Lee Architects
Interiors: Andrea Kantleberg Design
Location: 243 Perth Ave., in the Junction Triangle
Building: Four-storey midrise building with 39 residences
Models: One bedroom and two bedroom suites
Sizes: From 500 to over 1,700 square feet
Pricing: Starting from the mid $300,000's to over $1 million
Status: Currently under construction
Occupancy: Summer and fall 2017
Sales centre: Coming soon to 243 Perth Ave.
Phone: (416) 800-8796
Email: paul@archlofts.com
Website: archlofts.com

DEMAND

Housing market follows law of unintended consequences

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada

BILD's February new housing results, provided by Altus Group, our official source of new home market intelligence, were just released and they are both encouraging and discouraging.

The data shows a robust condominium market with record sales figures, particularly in the 905 region, and it shows unprecedented scarcity of new housing inventory, especially for low-rise homes. It also shows that while government is setting the laws for the housing industry to follow, it's the laws of unintended consequences that are influencing our market.

Provincial land use policies, like the Growth Plan meant to limit sprawl and encourage urban intensification are, while well-intentioned, helping create our current housing crisis situation.

Today we are seeing frustration, angst and fear among consumers, inflated pricing and undiminished demand for ground-related homes. The very condition the policies were intended to change.

At the end of last month, Altus' data showed that there were only 324 new detached homes available for purchase in builders' inventories across the entire GTA. Just 324. To put this in historical context, a decade ago there were more than 10,000 homes waiting for buyers.

For those who took a high school economics class, they may remember the unit on supply and demand. Today's housing market is a textbook example.

New housing scarcity is at an all-time high, which has, as your teacher explained, lead to higher home prices. Record high prices. A new, single detached home in the GTA averaged $1,469,449 last month, while if you factor in additional low-rise product like townhomes and semi-detached homes, the average price was $1,081,013.

The industry is following the provincial policies and we are now selling and building more high-rise homes and fewer ground-related ones. Last month more than twice the number of condominium apartments were sold than low rise homes. While many continue to think of our current condo boom as a phenomenon of the 416, anyone who has driven the streets of the 905 knows that's not true. Altus' data found that 1,661 of the condo suites were sold in Toronto, while Durham, Peel, Halton and York boasted 1,881 sales.

The demand in the GTA for available condo suites was so strong that inventory levels dropped again in February, reaching a new low of just 10,342 units.

The significant decline in all inventory and record high prices show that the government's policies on real estate are having a real impact on real people. Whether you live (or want to live) in a house, townhouse, semi-detached home or a condo; whether you want to live in the 416 or the 905 there's no escaping the reality that the market is experiencing a crisis and new housing policies are desperately needed. Before it's too late.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

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Spring decor *hand-made* in Montreal

Three eco-conscious designers from Montreal are collaborating on a home decor collection linked by their neutral tones and blue accents. Available now on eBay Canada, the collection ships free and proceeds go to Evergreen, a charity that promotes sustainable cities. MELITA KUBURAS/METRO

Midnight Owl (top) $65; **North Caribou** $65

All items available at eBay.ca/collaborations

Cushy creatures by Velvet Moustache

Majorie Labrèque-Lepage's company will celebrate 10 years this September — the Midnight Owl was one of the first in her collection of square-shaped animals. "I buy organic cotton threads and recycled fabric polyester and we take all those materials to knit the fabric," she says, of the terrycloth cushions made in Montreal's Ville-Marie neighbourhood. Textile sustainability is a core value. "It should be important to everyone," she says.

RELOJ Maple (left) $55; **RELOJ Walnut x Maple x Oak** $55

Nature time by Atelier Cocotte

Designer Isabelle Auger is known for her abstract light fixtures and lamps made out of bendy wooden strips, but she sometimes adds complementary decorative items to her workshop. The timepieces are made from Canadian maple, oak and walnut.

Trendy tableware by a ceramic artist

Marjorie Camiré says all her pieces are tipped in glaze, which creates a random gradient pattern that makes each item unique. "Cobalt blue is a pigment you can find in nature and it's a classic in ceramics — like the old-timey pottery that are pattered with that pigment — and I decided to use it differently," she tells Metro.

Vase $80; **Salt Box** $35
Serving Platter $50

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Don't forget about the fifth wall

INTERIORS

Ceiling decor can add dimension to room design

Consider your ceiling a canvas.

It's worked for centuries in palaces and places of worship — there's no reason it can't work for your castle, too. From subtle to spectacular, here are five designer treatments for your fifth wall.

Paint

Colour lends drama and luxury, it allows you to define a room in the same way that an area rug does. Psychologically, people are often most comfortable with ceiling colours that are similar to those found in nature. In making your selection, the sky really is the limit. Consider the light blue of a clear morning, or the golden hues of a sunset, the blue of a full-moon night sky all the way to the black of a moonless night. This kind of ceiling treatment can be achieved in a weekend with relative ease and a modest budget.

Wallpaper

Back on trend in a big way, wallpaper can deliver features such as texture, sheen and pattern to any room. Take grass cloth — it can give an embossed textured to a ceiling, with either tone-on-tone or contrasting colours for maximum effect. Using a sheen lets you create a shiny or matte detail and it's most effective in a space which has some up-lighting to enhance the light play on the ceiling. Don't be afraid of pattern in the right place: imagine the impact of a palm leaf motif on the ceiling of a solarium or sun room. Pattern on all five walls of a powder room can work well, too.

Lighting

More times than not, bigger is actually better when it comes to lighting a space and delivering an impact. The importance of scale cannot be underestimated. In a foyer, for example, you should seek out something that practically fills the entire ceiling tray. Consider it functional jewelry for your entranceway, setting a tone for your entire home. Dining rooms, too, are often excellent rooms in which to hang a statement piece. Keep in mind the designer rule that the fixture should be approximately two-thirds the diameter of the dining table. If you can't find that in a single fixture, don't hesitate to use two or three of the same style to achieve the look.

Coffers

A series of sunken panels in the shape of a square, rectangle or octagon in the ceiling, coffers can give a room the look of rich, old-world luxury while providing a solution to a multitude of sins.

Electrical wires can be hidden with coffers and pot lights can be installed. With the proliferation of condos and their concrete ceilings, coffers provide an opportunity for good general light and visual interest. Their added depth gives the chance to add colour to the variety of details and levels, or simply the ceiling itself. This is not a weekend warrior project; it requires the tools and skill set of a tradesperson.

Mouldings

Offering subtle embellishment to the ceiling, mouldings can be as simple or detailed as your taste allows. Many older homes have lower ceilings measuring eight feet or so. As a result, white was typically used to visually increase the height of the ceiling. Mouldings allow for you to play with depth, shadow and light in a way which dressed the ceiling as opposed to lowering it. Crown moulding is a classic and a favourite of many which will never go out of style. Moulding added to the centre of the ceiling in a Greek key pattern, for example, is trending right now and often painted out in the same colour as the ceiling. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Coffers can add depth and beams can give a pop of colour.

Top left: Crown moulding adds height to ceilings. Top right: All-over wallpaper can have a big impact, especially in small spaces. Bottom: statement light fixtures, like this chandelier, can set the style tone of a room. ALL PHOTOS TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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metro SPORTS

Augusta National was shut down for the second time this week Wednesday due to severe weather with the Masters set to Open Thursday

NBA LOWRY RETURNS TO LEAD RAPTORS OVER PISTONS
Raptors guard Kyle Lowry is defended by Pistons forward Marcus Morris in Auburn Hills, Mich., on Wednesday night. Playing for the first time since undergoing surgery on his right wrist, Lowry scored a game-high 27 points in 42 minutes and the Raptors rallied for a 105-102 win. GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

MASTERS

Johnson ailing after tumble down stairs

Masters favourite Dustin Johnson took a serious fall on a staircase Wednesday and injured his lower back, and his manager said it was uncertain whether the world's No. 1 golfer would be able to play.

It was a stunning development on an otherwise quiet day at Augusta National, where the course was shut down at 1:30 p.m. because of storms.

The real calamity struck a few hours later.

David Winkle, his manager at Hambric Sports, said Johnson fell on the stairs at the home he is renting in Augusta.

"He landed very hard on his lower back and is now resting, although quite uncomfortably," Winkle said in an email. "He has been advised to remain immobile and begin a regiment of anti-inflammatory medication and icing, with the hope of being able to play tomorrow."

> **"I've got a lot of confidence in my game right now ... But, you know, anything can happen.**
> Dustin Johnson on Tuesday

What might help Johnson is that he is in the last group for the opening round, scheduled to tee off at 2:03 p.m. with two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson and PGA champion Jimmy Walker.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yuuuge on the links

GOLF

Trump extends his polarizing persona to the greens

Leave your ego in the clubhouse if you ever get the chance to golf with U.S. President Donald Trump. He may well throw shade on your game. And puff up his own.

Trump suggested to his good friend Phil Ruffin that maybe he should be hitting from the women's tees. Years ago, he repeatedly ribbed an AP golf writer after his drive didn't go as far as a female pro's. As president, he's even had the chutzpah to give grief to Ernie Els, who's playing in the Masters this week.

"He's very good at the needle," says Jim Herman, who was an assistant club pro at one of Trump's courses before Trump spotted his talent and helped him join the PGA Tour.

Since taking office, Trump has made it clear he has no qualms about spending quality time on the golf course even though he criticized former president Barack Obama relentlessly for doing the same.

This is one area, however, where the president's boasts are borne out by performance.

At age 70, the president still is a very good golfer, with a strong drive, quirky but effective putts and multiple holes-in-one and 19 club championships to his credit.

While he hasn't recorded scores for a while, his handicap was 2.9 last fall, better than the 3.5 for 77-year-old Jack Nicklaus, the 18-time major champion.

> **"He was giving me grief about my game.**
> Ernie Els, four-time major winner

Donald Trump says he is using golf to help lubricate business and political pursuits.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

In his 10 weeks as president, Trump has turned up at one or another of his 16 golf properties at least 17 times, spending more than 63 hours in all at different clubs.

2.9
Trump's golf handicap.

But the White House, sensitive to accusations that it's hypocritical for Trump to golf a lot after criticizing Obama for doing just that, fuzzes up exactly what the president is doing during all those hours at his clubs.

Trump is proud to say he uses his golf game to lubricate business and political pursuits.

As he tries to revive the effort to repeal health-care law, Trump on Sunday invited Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who had opposed the latest plan, for a round of golf at his course in northern Virginia.

Paul said Monday that Trump likes to talk about "how we come together to get everybody on the same page, and he likes to do it through golf."

Trump made a point of golfing with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in February, using the golden driver that Abe had given him just days after the election. The two used the Florida outing to foster deeper relationships in Asia, according to the White House.

Els, who was part of a foursome with Trump and Abe that weekend, says the talk wasn't all business.

"He was giving me grief about my game," Els said. "He's one of the boys. He didn't talk anything down on the ladies or anything like that, so that was nice."

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IN BRIEF

Canadian weightlifter closer to gold after drug retests

Canada could be adding a second gold medal to its tally from the 2012 Olympics.

Weightlifter Christine Girard could jump from third place to first after the IOC stripped Russia's Svetlana Tzarukaeva of the silver after a positive substance test. Maiya Maneza has already been stripped of her gold.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Leafs look to bolt down spot

NHL

Playoffs' return to ACC a miniscule margin away

The Maple Leafs are in with a win.

Or, in a matter fitting with the NHL's complicated standings, they can also clinch a playoff spot Thursday if they lose to Tampa Bay in a shootout, combined with a loss of any variety by the New York Islanders, or even a New York win in shootout.

The Leafs had Wednesday off to rest for the Air Canada Centre's biggest regular-season hockey game since ... Tuesday.

And while the city is braced to celebrate this ahead-of-schedule rebuild, led by a very likeable bunch of youngsters, the players are focused on the task at hand.

"Do or die," Leafs winger Mitch Marner said. "We need to make sure we're coming in ready to play for these next three games no matter what the standings say, or whether we're in or not."

With three games left each, the Maple Leafs, Senators, Islanders and Lightning are battling for the final two playoff spots Ottawa and Toronto hold, and the race could be over Thursday night.

The tiebreakers are like this: (1) the team with the most wins in regulation or overtime; (2) the head-to-head season series (minus the first home game of the team with the extra home game if there was an odd number of games); and (3) the goals-for, goals-against differential.

Boston, though officially in third place in the Atlantic behind Ottawa, has already clinched a playoff spot because it has more regulation or overtime wins than either Tampa or the Islanders can muster in the games remaining.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Leafs won 5-0 in their March 16 visit to Tampa Bay.
GETTY IMAGES

> **"I'm superstitious, I'm not popping any corks yet.**
>
> Scott Moore, president of Rogers' Sportsnet who would love to see the Leafs make the playoffs. Last year, sports fans abandoned telecasts in record numbers with no Canadian teams in the playoffs.

MLB

O's sweep Jays away

WEDNESDAY In Maryland

3	1
BLUE JAYS	ORIOLES

Dylan Bundy struck out eight over seven impressive innings, and the Baltimore Orioles used home runs by Adam Jones and Chris Davis to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 3-1 Wednesday night.

Making his 15th career start, Bundy (1-0) allowed one run and four hits. The 2011 first-round draft pick did not issue a walk and retired 14 of the last 15 batters he faced.

Dylan Bundy
GETTY IMAGES

Bundy went 10-6 last year, his first full season in the big leagues. The 24-year-old is being counted on this season to build on that performance, and the right-hander certainly did not disappoint in his 2017 debut.

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Hearty Carrot & Chickpea Stew

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This fragrant, hearty stew makes more than enough for dinner, so you can pack leftovers for a tasty lunch tomorrow.

Ready in 1 hour 5 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 1 hour
Serves 6

Ingredients
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 Tbsp minced ginger
- Tbsp olive oil
- 3 cups carrots, chopped in 1/4 inch rounds
- 1/2 tsp turmeric
- 3/4 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 1 red pepper chopped
- 1/2 zucchini chopped
- 6 or 8 mushrooms chopped
- 2 cups of canned chickpeas, drained
- 1 cup chicken or vegetable stock

Directions

1. Sauté the onion, garlic and ginger in the olive oil until they're soft but not browned.

2. Add the carrots and the spices and a splash of stock to stop it from sticking.

3. Cook for 10 to 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

4. Add the other vegetables and sauté for a couple of minutes.

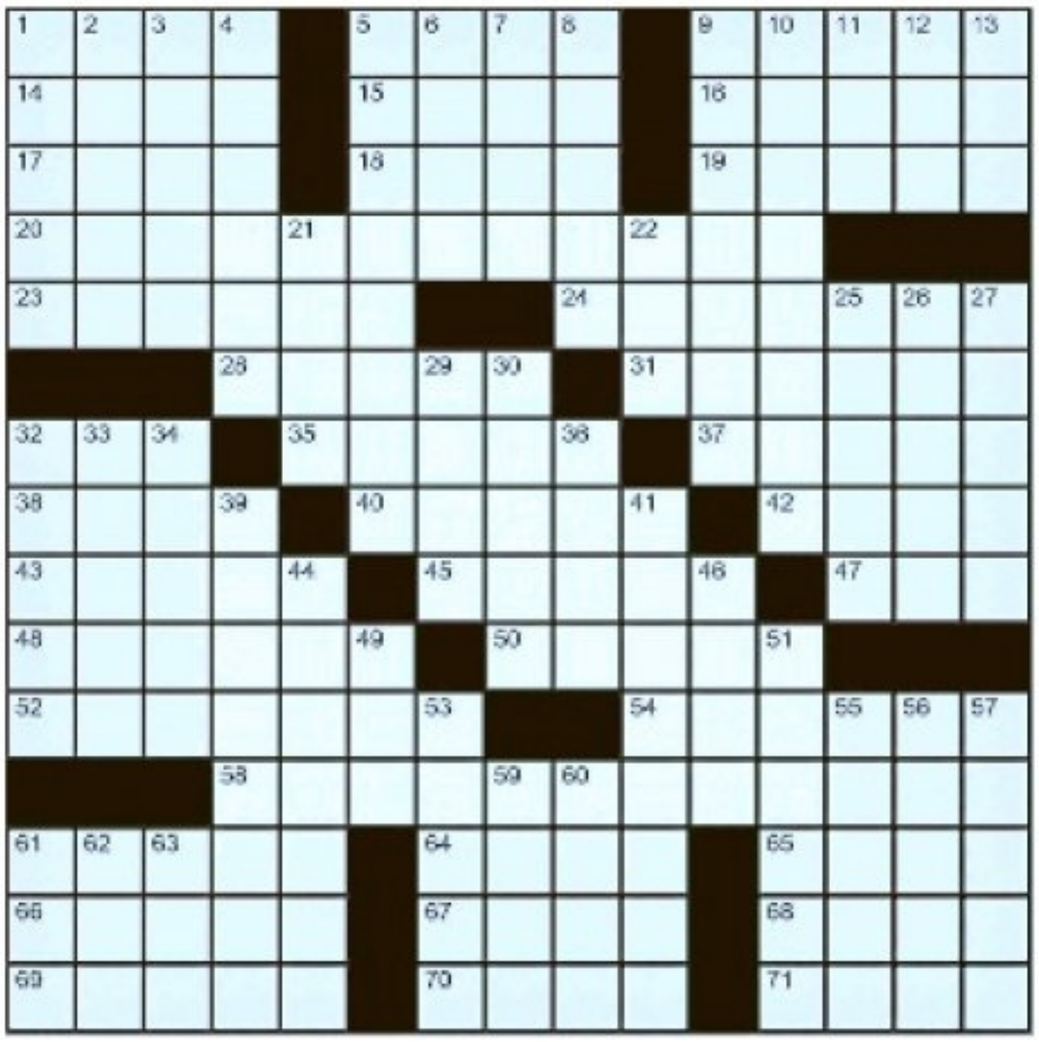
5. Add the drained chickpeas and stock and simmer for an hour, stirring regularly.

6. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve with a dollop of plain yogurt and some fresh cilantro.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "Begone!"
5. Cinch
9. Treat at afternoon tea
14. Family-themed song by Paul Anka
15. Outfit for Octavian
16. Up __ (Until this moment)
17. __ the Terrible
18. Division
19. Surplus
20. Bruno Gerussi's starring role on "The Beachcombers": 2 wds.
23. Row of cookies in a bag
24. First __ in Western Canada National Historic Site of Canada, it's something to 'gush' about in Alberta
28. Parts of doorbell-sounding duos
31. Particularly-pitiless person
32. Diamond official, for short
35. Look after the fire's logs
37. Work like Rosie did in World War II
38. Heathcliff's heathered haunt
40. Drink the water, as a puppy
42. Cancelled
43. Tim Hortons __ (Curling championship)
45. Carnivals
47. Hankering
48. Rotten
50. News reporter's coup
52. Leeward Islands country, __ and Barbuda
54. Pieces in the Phantom of the Opera's wardrobe
58. American inventor (b.1847 - d.1931) whose father was Canadian: 2 wds.
61. Noise a tomato makes when falling onto the kitchen floor
64. 'Chew' suffix (Like a stick of gum)
65. "My king."
66. On __ (How some sandwiches are served)
67. Footnote abbr.
68. River on the Poland/Germany border
69. __-turvy
70. Meshworks
71. Organized

DOWN
1. Revolves
2. Quibble
3. Speedily
4. What the turned-out-to-not-be-a-blockbuster-movie did
5. University attendees
6. Reason for a "Tsk, tsk." utterance
7. Opposin'
8. Flagstones-created retreat
9. Thief
10. Rowing team
11. Windsor, __.
12. __'easter
13. Hawaii's __ Beach
21. Hertz competitor
22. Shadowy
25. Diplomatic representative
26. Vassal
27. Disclosed: 2 wds.
29. Fairway game
30. Arctic seabirds
32. Total eclipse phenomenon
33. "Joanie Loves Chachi" star Erin
34. Gist of a speech
36. Mr. Clapton
39. Piano performances
41. Takeaways from sales
44. Justifiedly
46. Hoped-for-word-in-bold on a real estate sign
49. Couplet
51. "Every Rose Has Its Thorn" band
53. At full force, poetically
55. "All kidding __..."
56. Seoul, South __
57. Viking dog in the funny pages
59. Superior at a French monastery
60. Skirt feature
61. Was in session
62. __ rata
63. Prune

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You are pumped to explore social situations, playful times with children, the arts and sporting events today. You want to have fun, and you're ready for anything!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Family discussions will be lively, inventive and original today. Listen to what other people bring to the table. Surprise company might drop by — stock the fridge.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You're full of inventive, genius-like ideas today. This is why conversations with others will be lively and stimulating! Enjoy and learn whatever you can.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Trust your moneymaking ideas, because you are capable of seeing new ways of doing things simply because you can think outside the box. Sometimes, that's all it takes.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
For most of this day, the Moon is in your sign, dancing with wild and wacky Uranus. This helps you to be inventive and spontaneous. Just go with the flow!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You might be privately excited about something today, because you see new ways of doing things. The trick is, will others agree with you? Why not find out?

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You might meet a real character today. This also is a good day to hang out with friends and explore fresh activities. Don't be afraid to take a chance on something new.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
People admire you today. They see you as someone who is a leader and who is full of innovative ideas. Likewise, your boss or parent also might have a new way of looking at things.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Travel plans suddenly might fall in your lap today. Alternatively, scheduled travel might be canceled or delayed. Anything can happen.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Check your bank account and anything to do with shared property, because a few surprises await you today. Make sure you know what's going on.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A friend or partner might surprise you today by suggesting something out of the blue. Stay light on your feet so that you can play ball.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a good day to introduce reform and improvements to your job or possibly to your health. That's because you are full of original, inventive ideas. Trust your thinking process.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		6				9	7	
1				2				
8			3		5			1
		5	4		3	1		
	6						9	
		8	6		7	5		
6			8		2			7
				4				5
	8	3				6		

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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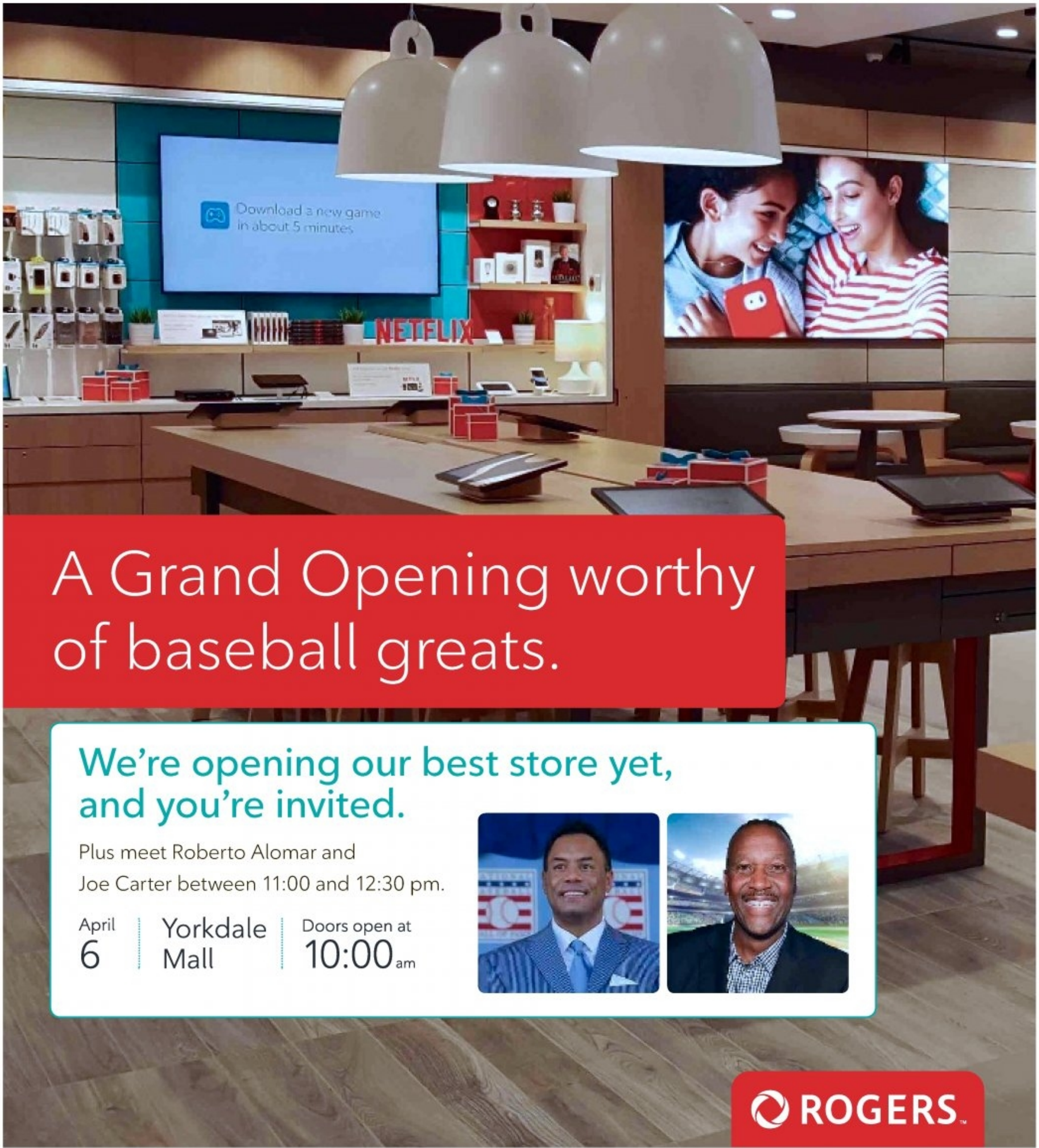
4	7	2	3	1	6	9	5	8
8	1	5	4	7	9	3	6	2
6	9	3	8	2	5	7	4	1
7	2	4	6	3	8	5	1	9
3	5	8	2	9	1	4	7	6
9	6	1	7	5	4	2	8	3
1	8	7	9	4	2	6	3	5
5	3	9	1	6	7	8	2	4
2	4	6	5	8	3	1	9	7



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